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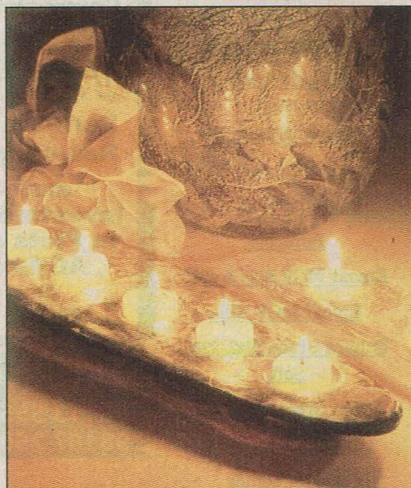
## Light up your life

Follow the vastu tenets to bring prosperity to your home on Diwali, says **Alkesh Gupta**

**F**estival of lights — Diwali — is the occasion to decorate your house and worship Goddess Laxmi and Lord Ganesha. Exchange of gifts, and sweets, purchase of jewellery, cloth, utensil and other household items mark the festive occasion. However, amidst this festive mood certain vastu precautions should be observed to bring prosperity in our lives.

This is the day when there is a need to re-strengthen the aura of your house. Adorn your house with colourful lights. Decorate south-east corner with red bulbs, south-west corner with yellow bulbs, north-west corner with blue bulbs and north-east corner with white bulbs.

Light a *desi ghee diya* in south-east corner and keep it lit till mid-night. This will help you in regenerating the lost energy field. Beautify the entrance of your house with the *toran-mala* made of mango leaf, turmeric powder, chandan and kumkum. This prevents negative energy to



come inside your house. Dhoop made of desi ghee and googal should be used in diwali pooja. Bringing sfatic Ganeshji and Dhakshinawati Shank in pooja has additional benefit. Chanting Laxmi-Strotra (mantra) with *Kamal-Gatray-ki-mala* on this day has wonderful results.

According to the *Ravan-sahinta* negativity is at its maximum level on this day. Some people use the festive occasion to harm others — by the use of tantra to fulfil their desires. Vastu recommends that a person should put some vastu-salt or sea-salt in his pocket to overcome this negativity.

Diwali pooja should be done with proper mantras and material. Vastu recommends that pooja should be done in north-east corner or the centre portion of your house. At the time of pooja Goddess Laxmi should face south and Lord Ganesha should be towards the left-hand-side of Goddess Laxmi. Lord Ganesha may also face west or the south-west.

As per the mythological beliefs Goddess Laxmi comes to earth on the mid-night of Diwali to choose a home to live for the whole year. She searches for the neat and clean houses which are lit by *diyas*. If she finds the inmates awake she stays in the house for the rest of the year.